Obtaining of Quarterly report from RCCF, Bangalore on Forest ResourceS

1099. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government obtain quarterly
report, from RCCF, Bangalore on the status of forests in each state in the South;

(b) if so, whether such reports also take into account the satellite imaging of
forest resources;

(c) whether the trend of forest growth and exploitation in West Godavari measures up from latest report;

(d) whether Government are aware that tribals have come forward to protect Reserve Forest in Polavaram Range, West Godavari Distt. Andhra Pradesh;

(e) whether Government propose to reward such tribal youth protecting the forests; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No reports are obtained from RCCF, Bangalore regarding status of forests in Southern States on quarterly basis. However, Forest Survey of India periodically monitors actual forest cover of the country on a two year cycla through satellite imageries.

(c) Comparison of State of Forest Reports 1991 and 1993 of Forest Survey of India shows that actual forest cover of the West Godavari district has increased from 843 Sq. km. to 846 Sq. km. during the said period.

(d) to (f) It is policy of the Government to encourage involvement of local people, particularly tribals in protection and rehabilitation of degraded forest areas. Any move by a community in this direction will be welcomed by the Government.

Master Pian for Protection and Environment of Green Cover in Eastern Goats in A. P.

1100. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: WiU the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether any Master Plan has been developed for protection and environment of green cover in the Eastern Ghats is Andhra Pradesh;

lb) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have approac hed any foreign Government fox financial
assistance to implement a plan to increase
forest cover and restrict depletion of forest resources m the Eastern Ghats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESRS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a; and (b). In the Eastern Ghat region OF Andhra Pradesh, the district of Visakha patnam, Sikaku.am. East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam and Chittoor havE been identified for the purposes of increa sing the afforestation efforts. Afforeststation and tree planting acti vities are undertaken in the concerned districts under the schemes of the Slate Forest Department and other concerned Departments as also under the schemes of Central Government like the Integrated Affortatation and Eco-Develop-ment Projects Scheme, Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme, Minor Forest Produce Scheme and Aerial Seeding Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and For ests, the Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme and Drought ProneAreas Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, etc.

(c) and (d) For Andhra Pradesh, a World Bank assisted Forestry Project has been negotiated and work is expected to commence during the current financial year. The total project cost is Rs. 35* crores. The project would be implacemental

other a period of six yean. The implement tation of the project, which coven (he whole State, will increase the ansa cov-and under (he afforestation and tree planting activities in Andhra Pradsah including the Eastern Ghat region.

Banana) of Tanfter from East and Weft Gedavari district doe to fleed Is Geda-veri Rivers

1101. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is • fact that during Godavari flood large quantities of valuable timber are removed from forest ranges in East Godavari and West Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradeab;

(h) whether Central Government have assured the State Government of additional manpower to man the various check-po«*S and

(e) whether Government propose to end observers to the particular area to augment and advise the State Government to check depletion of valuable forest res-eurces with detail* thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Sometimes daring heavy floods treei standing along the banks of Godavari river are uprooted, which are salvaged by the State Forest Department as drift weeo.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Obtaining of Ozone Fund

1102. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVI RONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state s

(a) whether it is s fact that India has been active in the formation of the Ozone Fundi

(b) whether India has obtained any fande from the said Oaon, Fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(a) whether it is a fact that commer cial interests are preventing release of funds to develop technology to preserve Ozone layer; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Although India acceded to the Montreal Protocol, alongwith its London Amendments on June 19, 1992, it has played an important rote since beginning in the negotiations leading to the Montreal Protocol, including formulation of the Ozone Fund.

(b) and (c) So far 228 projects for an amount of US Dollars 9.4 million have
been approved for India by the Ozone Fund. The details of projects approved are given in Annexure [See Appendix 171, Annexure No. 23]

(d) and (e) The guidelines for transfer of financial resouces and transfer of technology to developing countries are decided by the Conference of the Parties
to the Montreal Protocol. The Executive Committee, which consists of equal number of representatives from develop ed countries, administers the Multilate ral Fund and ensures implementing of these guidlines. The Executive Commit
tee considers issues within the Protocol
and guidelines given by the Parties. All members of the Executive Committee are expected to take a stand for release of funds and transfer of technology to developing countries on objective con siderations.

Tnstallation of Pollution monitoring Devices in Towns

1103. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY; WiU the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to help the finance State Governments to instil and operate pollution monitoring device* in small and medium sized towns;